



About the Award:

The Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI)'s Friend of Soccer Award is awarded each year to those who have contributed to youth soccer in a meaningful way. An award recipient is selected by each Zone Board for a total of five awards each year.

Nomination Process:

SYSI is pleased to announce we have revamped our Friend of Soccer Award nomination process and are now recognizing one recipient per zone instead of one overall recipient per year. We feel there are plenty of deserving volunteers for this award and are excited to be sharing this award with five worthy volunteers each year going forward! Each year individuals may nominate a worthy volunteer for our award and submit their nomination to their respective Zone board. Each of the five Zone boards will compile their nominations and select one recipient to represent their Zone for that year. SYSI will then recognize all five recipients at the "Outdoor Pre-Season Coaches' Night" in April. The nomination form can be found on our website under the "Forms" section. The deadline for nominations is the end of February each year and each Zone must form their decision by late March each year.

Friend of Soccer Award Past Recipients

1989 - Al Day
1990 - Jill Postlewaite
1991 - Bob Speed
1992 - Ross Wilson
1993 - Ken & Carol Wagner
1994 - Jim Cook
1995 - Percy Hoff
1996 - Huw Morris
1997 - John Riggs
1998 - John Tomchuk
1999 - Gary Harder
2000 - Lawrence Martz
2001 - Bernadette Garrity
2002 - Pat Gillies
2003 - Gloria Rowan
2004 - Not Awarded
2005 - Miike Grevers
2006 - Brett Mario
2007 - Bob McAllister
2008 - Hal Lackie
2009 - Terry Carruthers
2010 - Tom LaPointe
2011 - Joe Garcea
2012 - Edward Halyk
2013 - Mark Lord
2014 - Bob Rohachuk
2015 - Wilf McDougall

2016:
SUSC - No Nomination
Hollandia - Sean Collins
Aurora - Mark Schramm
Lakewood - No Nomination
Eastside - Trevor Conquergood
2017
SUSC - Lorena Walls
Hollandia - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
Aurora - Shaun Eaton
Lakewood - Leonard Lewko
Eastside - David Chan
2018
SUSC - Shawn Dyky
Hollandia - Leigh Saunders -
Aurora - Kevin Foster
Lakewood - Daniel Weber
Eastside - Lynee Gelner
2019:
SUSC - Celeste Glasser - Cook
Hollandia - Hernan Tapia
Aurora - Alex Hein
Lakewood - Garnette Weber
Eastside - Angele Thiessen

2020:
SUSC - Michele Mason
Hollandia - Randy Poelzer
Aurora - Dan Cote
Lakewood - Melanie Scott - Kwan
Eastside - Jodi Blackwell
2021:
SUSC - Morgan Reagan
Hollandia - Alicia Osses
Aurora - Steph Hnatiw & Crystal Shendaruk
Lakewood - Samantha Lamborn
Eastside - Michael Diegel
2022:
SUSC - Cory Clason
Hollandia - Darcy & Erin Pederson
Aurora - Mukasa Bagonluri
Lakewood - Tim Wong
Eastside - Dean Stanzel



2023 Award Recipients:

Zone 1: SUSC – Alan Brewster

Years of Service: 10 +

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach, Board of Directors

Allen has coached soccer since his son was in Community, over a decade. He's been a member of SUSC's Technical Staff for the last few years and has recently also joined the SUSC board of directors. He is a mentor to many other volunteer coaches, including his wife and his son, who have also coached with SUSC.

Allen is a coach who goes above and beyond for his team, inspiring them to play with passion and dedication. He not only focuses on the game but the well-being of his players and teaches them valuable life skills along the way. His commitment to his players' growth, both on and off the field, makes him truly deserving of recognition.

Zone 2: Hollandia – Kevin Brown

Years of Service: 10+

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach, Board Member, Technology Committee

Kevin Brown has made a significant impact on soccer in Saskatoon. His dedication to teaching the game has not only developed athletes but also nurtured a love for soccer that extends beyond the field. Kevin's attention to detail is evident in his post-game emails, where he highlights the smallest moments that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. This level of care extends to his interactions with players, where his kindness and empathy shows through, especially in challenging moments.

Beyond the game itself, Kevin's coaching style fosters positivity and confidence, creating an environment where players are eager to participate in practices and games. His ability to inspire players to see him as a positive influence has been key to his success as a coach.



Zone 3: Aurora – Vijay Tumber

Years of Service: 30

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach, Community Coordinator, Aurora Community Rep

Vijay is more than just a name; he has been a supporter of soccer whose passion for the game has spanned over 30 years, has help uplift the soccer community. Whether he's coaching, sharing his knowledge and skills with fellow coaches and players, or promoting the sport's values, Vijay embodies the true spirit of passion and sportsmanship.

His dedication to soccer extends beyond the field as well. As the Community Coordinator for Willowgrove / University Heights Community Association, Vijay has played a pivotal role in leading the association to record-high registration numbers, further solidifying his status as a true friend of soccer.

Zone 4: Lakewood – Chris Todd

Years of Service: 10

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Head Coach, Assistant Coach

Chris' impact on soccer has been great, and reflects his passion for the game and his dedication to player development. He believes that soccer is more than just a sport but can be used for teaching important life lessons such as taking risks to learn and grow.

As a coach, he has always had a positive attitude and put his words into action. His primary goal is to ensure players enjoy their soccer experience enough to keep them engaged and motivated. He views soccer as a lifelong activity and takes pride in seeing former players becoming coaches themselves, which is a testament to his influence and mentorship.

As well, he has been a huge supporter of female soccer, encouraging both players and coaches to be involved with the game.

Thank you, Chris!



Zone 5: Eastside – Kevin Cuff

Years of Service: 7

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Assistant Coach, Head Coach, Tech Team Coach, Chair of Eastside Technical Committee, SYS PCC Member, SYS Alliance Academy

Kevin has been one of the most recognizable Eastside faces in recent memory. First getting involved in 2017 in through Eastside's mini programming, Kevin quickly came to enjoy being involved with coaching. Never one to shy away from engaging with kids, Kevin threw himself into the coaching world and tried to be on the field as much as possible. He could always be relied upon to be one of the most engaged coaches, lending an extra hand week in and week out to help with session prep and take down. Over the years Kevin has coached every age group from U7 through to U17 and developed strong connections with the kids, fellow coaches and Eastside families.

In addition to supporting the club on field, Kevin was an active Eastside Board Member for many years, an Eastside Committee Chair, and a member of the SYS PCC. In these various roles he has dedicated countless hours to planning, assessing, adjusting and reviewing programming with the aim of giving kids the best experience possible.

We are so proud to have Kevin as an ambassador of Eastside